

been State matters has dangerous implications both for the fair administration of justice and for the principle that States are something more than mere administrative districts of a nation governed mainly from Washington.

H.R. 3132 not only creates new Federal programs and crimes, it instructs the States to change their laws to conform with Federal dictates. This violates the Constitution, and can weaken law enforcement. For example, one of the provisions of the new law requires States include those convicted of misdemeanors in their sex offender registries. By definition, misdemeanors are nonserious crimes, yet under this legislation State officials must waste valuable resources tracking non-serious sex offenders—resources that should be going to tracking those who are more likely to represent a real threat to children.

Thus, once again we see how increasing the role of the Federal Government in fighting these crimes—even when it is well intended—only hamstring local and State law enforcement officers and courts and prevents them from effectively dealing with such criminals as the locals would have them dealt with—harshly and finally.

Mr. Chairman, Congress could both honor the Constitution and help States and local governments protect children by using our power to limit Federal jurisdiction to stop Federal judges from preventing States and local governments from keeping these criminals off the streets. My colleagues should remember that it was a Federal judge in a Federal court who ruled that the death penalty is inappropriate for sex offenders. Instead of endorsing a bill to let people know when a convicted child molester or rapist is in their neighborhood after being released, perhaps we should respect the authority of State courts and legislators to give child molesters and rapists the life or even death sentences, depending on the will of the people of those States.

Just as the Founders never intended the Congress to create a national police force, they never intended the Federal courts to dictate criminal procedures to the States. The Founding Fathers knew quite well that it would be impossible for a central government to successfully manage crime prevention programs for as large and diverse a country as America. That is one reason why they reserved to the States the exclusive authority and jurisdiction to deal with crime. Our children would likely be safe today if the police powers and budgets were under the direct and total control of the States as called for in the Constitution.

Finally Mr. Chairman, this legislation poses a threat to constitutional liberty by taking another step toward creating even more Federal “hate crimes” laws. So called “hate crimes” add an extra level of punishment for the thoughts motivating a crime—as if murder or robbery motivated by “hate” is somehow more offensive than murder or robbery motivated by greed or jealousy. Laws criminalizing thought, instead of simply criminalizing acts of aggression against persons and property, have no place in a free society.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, since H.R. 3132 further burdens State and local law enforcement with unconstitutional Federal mandates that may make it tougher to monitor true threats to children, I encourage my colleagues to reject this bill. Instead, I hope my colleagues will work to end Federal interference in State laws that prevent States from effectively

protecting children from sexual predators.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHARLOTTE RILEY CALLAHAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I am happy to congratulate Jenni and Paul Callahan, natives of Greenville, South Carolina, on the birth of their beautiful baby girl. Charlotte Riley Callahan was born in Alexandria, Virginia, on September 15, 2005 at 8:36 a.m., weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces and measuring 21.5 inches long. She has been born into a loving home, where she will be raised by parents who are devoted to her well-being and bright future.

Her father Paul serves as a Legislative Correspondent in my office and is a tremendous asset to the Second District of South Carolina. His strong work ethic, attention to detail, and pleasant personality make him a treasured member of my staff. Today, I am pleased to congratulate the Callahan family on Charlotte's birth.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROSA PARKS' REFUSAL TO GIVE UP HER SEAT ON THE BUS AND THE SUBSEQUENT DESEGREGATION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 14, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, nearly 50 years ago on December 1, 1955, history was altered considerably by the refusal of a Black woman to give up her seat to a White man on a public bus. This woman was Rosa Parks, a seamstress and the secretary of the NAACP from Montgomery, AL.

Mr. Speaker, on that day Rosa Parks was not only tired from a hard day at work, but also of the torment and persecution endured by Blacks of her day. Based solely on the color of her skin, she had encountered much discrimination throughout the years, and finally, on that day, decided she was fed up.

We all know the story, but let me remind my colleagues. On that Thursday evening in December, Mrs. Parks decided that she would not give up her seat for a White man to sit down in the “Colored” section, and was consequently arrested for violating segregation laws.

Ms. Parks' arrest marked the point of conception of the civil rights movement. What followed can be described as no less than monumental. The Black community of Montgomery, AL, decided to boycott the bus system—that by the way, relied heavily on their 75 percent ridership for revenue. Montgomery's Black community, led by a young Martin Luther King, Jr. who endorsed nonviolence as a means to achieve equality, chose to walk, carpool, or ride bicycles instead of riding the bus.

Despite huge revenue losses, the Montgomery bus system refused to alter its segregation policies.

Despite endless provocation from Whites, who often resorted to acts of violence and harassment, the Black community continued its boycott for over a year.

Finally, approximately a year after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus, on November 13, 1956, the Supreme Court declared Montgomery's bus segregation ordinance unconstitutional. Shortly thereafter, the Federal Interstate Commerce Commission banned segregation on all interstate trains and buses.

Although there were many other subsequent laws and decrees that helped to desegregate America, Rosa Parks' courage was the incipient act that sparked the stand for equality across the Nation—culminating in the civil rights movement.

It is for these reasons that I strongly support this resolution honoring Mrs. Parks' bravery. I thank my good friend, Representative JOHN CONYERS, for spearheading this noble effort and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

A TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL L. JACKSON

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Samuel L. Jackson, a man who through hard work and dedication has become one of the most successful and well-respected attorneys in the state of California. As his friends, family and colleagues gather to pay tribute to Mr. Jackson's remarkable career and to celebrate his retirement, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting this great American success story.

Sam was born in 1947 in Pensacola, Florida. At the age of four, Sam's parents separated. Thereafter, Sam's mother, Annette, raised her six children alone while working two jobs. Mrs. Jackson taught her children that education was the key to success, and Sam graduated from high school in segregated Pensacola, Florida. However, despite the fact that Sam was on the honor roll for nearly all of his childhood, he was unable to attend college immediately due to the lack of scholarship money available to graduates of all-black high schools.

To earn money for college, Sam joined the United States Air Force, where he served honorably from 1966 until 1970. Sam's military career included stateside service at Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento and Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield, as well as thirteen months in Vietnam. After receiving numerous medals, ribbons, and awards, Sam was honorably discharged, and returned home to enroll at Sacramento City College.

While still in the Air Force and stationed at Mather, Sam served as best man in a friend's wedding, accompanying the bride's sister Esther. The next time Sam and Esther walked down the aisle together, it was as bride and groom. They married in 1970 upon his return from Vietnam, and recently celebrated their 35th anniversary. Sam and Esther have one child, Andre Reginald.